



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING FIREARM IN FURTHERANCE OF A DRUG TRAFFICKING CRIME

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to illegally possessing a firearm.

Elgin Humphrey, 29, of Springfield, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to illegally possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense.

By pleading guilty, **Humphrey** admitted that he was in possession of a Hi-Point 9 mm semi-automatic handgun on Jan. 31, 2003, in Greene County, Mo. **Humphrey** admitted that he possessed the firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for a person to be in possession of a firearm while also trafficking an illegal narcotic.

Humphrey was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 4, 2003, in Springfield.

Humphrey was initially arrested on Jan. 31, 2003, after law enforcement officers served a search warrant on 2135 N. Newton, in Springfield. At the time of the search, officers discovered **Humphrey** sitting on top of the firearm and near the crack cocaine. **Humphrey** admitted that he sold crack cocaine for extra money and that he possessed the firearm in case somebody tried to rob him, Graves said.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Humphrey** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to life in prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow